GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department – Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri Y.V. Ratnam, FBO (Retd.) formerly worked in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary under Rule 20 of APCS(CC&A) Rules 1991 – Sri Y.V. Ratnam, FBO(Retd), expired on 25.05.2020 – Further action abated – Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Sec.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 8 Dated: 02-02-2021

Read the following:-

1. From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.5096/2019/A&DC-2, dt.17.07.2019.
2. Memo. No. EFS01-FRST0FVIG/52/2019-SEC-IV, dt. 16.09.2019.
3. From the PCCF(HoFF) Lr. Ref. No.5096/2019/A&DC-2, dt. 07.02.2020
4. From the PCCF(HoFF) Lr. Rc.No.5096/2009/A&DC-2, dt. 05.09.2020.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF), A.P., Guntur has reported that the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore issued an Article of Charge to Sri Y.V.Rathnam, Forest Beat Officer, formerly worked in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary vide Rc.No.2344(ii)/2012/F13, dt.21.03.2017 under Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules 1991, on the following counts:-

Article-I:"That the said Sri Y.V.Rathnam, Forest Beat Officer has committed irregularities by allowing for removal of sand in PBS Range causing heavy loss to the Environment and failed to bring this illegal activity to the notice of higher officers violating the provisions of Rule 3 of AP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 resulting the loss to the Government to a tune of Rs.4,32,795/-".

Article-II:"Suppressed the facts to the higher officers and failure to safeguard the Government property entrusted to his charge".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the Article of Charge on 03.04.2017 and submitted his written defence statement on 11.04.2017. The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore, appointed the Divisional Forest Officer, WLM Division Division, Sullurpeta as Inquiry Officer and the Forest Range Officer, PBS Range as Presenting Officer respectively vide Proc.No.2344(i)/2012/F13, dt.28.04.2017 for conducting regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer has submitted the findings vide Rc.No.790/2012/S1, dt.26.09.2018, in which he concluded that,

1. It is found that the quarrying of sand from Anapagunta to Karipete canal area and Tada warf arears to a tune of 3136.196 cmt is a fact and was recorded in the presence of the then DFO., Sullurpet. The above said offence was not detected by ABO to DFO., until the information was received through Vaartha reporter to the CF., Tirupathi Circle.

2. It is found that there is an ambiguity in the boundaries and status of the land where the offence was deducted. The above said ambiguity was not raised in the beginning of the detection of the offence on 07.08.2012 and not raised by the then DFO., WLM Sullirpet, FRO, Pulicat Range, FSO, Pulicat and FBO Tada. It implies that the above said areas were considered as a part of the Sanctuary. The question of whether the land is a revenue land or Sanctuary was raised later by the Charged Officer i.e FBO, Tada Beat.

4. The Divisional Forest Officer, WLM, Sullurpet & Inquiry Officer has further enquired by inspecting the areas along with the Forest Range Officer, Pulicat Bird Sanctuary on dt.03.08.2018. It was established that Sri Y.V.Ratnam, FBO, Tada Beat, Pulicat Bird Sanctuary is not responsible for causing heavy loss to the environment because the areas where quarrying of sand was identified were not under his jurisdiction. The Inquiry Officer has concluded that the loss sustained to Government to a tune of Rs.4,32,795/- shall not be taken into consideration as the areas do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has reported that, the findings were communicated to the Charged Officer vide DFO, SPSR Nellore Rc.No.2344/2012/F9, dt.26.04.2019 and the Charged Officer has submitted his explanation on 29.04.2019.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P. has further reported that the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule-9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules 1980 since the Charged Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on.31.05.2018.

7. In the Memo. 2nd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF was requested to direct the Disciplinary Authority concerned to reach a finding on the charges framed against Sri Y.V. Ratnam, FBO(Retd.) and send the report to Government, immediately, for taking further action in the matter.

8. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has stated that the Conservator of Forests, Guntur forwarded the report of the DFO (i.e., Disciplinary Authority), SPSR Nellore, along with connected records, in which the DFO, SPSR Nellore (i.e., Disciplinary Authority) has concluded that the charges framed against the Charged Officer are not proved.

9. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has reported that Sri Y.V.Ratnam, Forest Beat Officer (Retd.) expired on 25.05.2020 and requested the Government to abate further disciplinary proceedings against Late Sri Y.V.Rathnam, Forest Beat Officer (Retd.)

10. After careful examination of the matter in the light of provisions of G.O.Ms.No.85, Fin.&Plg. (FW.Pen-I) Dept., dt.12.7.1999 and G.O.Ms.No.995 (Pen.I) Department, dt.21.12.2002, it has been decided to abate further action against the deceased Government servant Sri Y.V. Ratnam, FBO (Retd). Accordingly, Government hereby abate further action against the deceased Government servant, Sri Y.V. Ratnam, Forest Beat Officer(Retd) formerly worked in Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, as per the provisions of G.O.Ms.No.85, Fin.&Plg. (FW.Pen-I) Dept., dt.12.7.1999 and G.O.Ms.No.995 (Pen.I) Department, dt.21.12.2002.

11. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VIJAY KUMAR G. SRKR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF), A.P., Guntur.(with record Rc. No. 2344/2012/F13, O/o DFO, SPSR Nellore)
The Legal heirs of late Sri Y.V.Ratnam, FBO (Retd & expired)
(through the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF), AP, Guntur)

Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E), A.P. Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Ibrahimpatnam.
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER